

A RESOLUTION

23-236

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 8, 2019

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to change the legal holiday celebrated on the 2nd Monday in October from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day; and to amend sections 25-723 and 28-2701 of the District of Columbia Official Code to do the same.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Indigenous Peoples' Day Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019".

Sec. 2. (a) Columbus Day was officially designated a federal holiday in 1937, although Christopher Columbus did not discover the Americas, as millions of people were already living in North America upon his arrival in the Americas.

(b) Christopher Columbus never set foot on the shores of what is now known as the United States of America.

(c) Christopher Columbus enslaved, colonized, mutilated, and massacred thousands of indigenous people in the Americas.

(d) Currently 7 states and more than 70 cities do not observe Columbus Day.

(e) Columbus Day is in reverence to a divisive figure whose actions against indigenous people run counter to the values of equality, diversity, and inclusion—values that the District of Columbia has long embodied—and serves only to perpetuate hate and oppression, in contrast to the values the District espouses on a daily basis.

(f) The Council acknowledges the negative historic and continuing impacts of European colonization on the indigenous peoples of the Americas and reaffirms the District's commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion for all.

(g) As part of that commitment, the Council declares that there exists an immediate need to honor indigenous peoples' rich history and culture by acting expeditiously to amend existing law to rename the holiday celebrated on the 2nd Monday in October from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

**ENROLLED ORIGINAL**

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Indigenous Peoples' Day Emergency Amendment Act of 2019 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.